



Til

To whom it may concern

Support for the film project "Agent no. 7"

13/4-2026

Side 1/2

It is important that new generations are made aware of stories of people like Knut M. Haugland, like planned for the project "Agent 7". A hero, taking decisive action when your country is under treat, but also working tirelessly to build up international oriented cultural institutions, to promote collaboration, conversation and understanding across national and cultural borders. We wholeheartedly support the project "Agent 7" and strongly believe that it is an important story for coming generations. The family connection between the family of Knut M. Haugland, and Kip and Jeremy Prestholdt, will facilitate access to important material and facts.

Needless to say, the Kon-Tiki Museum also supports this project with access to our archives.

The Kon-Tiki Expedition in 1947 became the most celebrated maritime voyage in the 20th century. It captivated the public around the world. *Kon-Tiki. On raft across the South Seas* (1948 in Norway; 1950 in English), has been translated into 84 languages and sold in more than 50 million copies. The documentary of the expedition won the Academy Award of Merit, or Oscar, for best documentary feature in 1951.

Knut M. Haugland was the main driving force in establishing *The Kon-Tiki House*, a temporary shelter for the preservation and display of the raft. Without his effort the vessel would probably have ended up as firewood. In preparation for the first season, Knut M. Haugland, together with all his friends, worked to restore the raft for 32 consecutive Sundays.

The Kon-Tiki House opened its doors on May 15th, 1950, and within two years it had become the most popular museum in Norway. In 1954, after only four seasons as a tourist attraction, *The Kon-Tiki House* had funds enough to begin construction of a permanent museum. Knut M. Haugland transformed *The Kon-Tiki House* into a permanent and world renown museum, with its own research department, series of publications, and scholarship program.

He held a full-time occupation in service of the Norwegian Military, first in the Army, and then later the Air Force, as head of Signal Intelligence, Northern Norway, from 1952-63. The last two decades of this service he spent establishing and developing the National Resistance Museum. During all this time, Knut M. Haugland was also the director of the Kon-Tiki Museum, a position he could devote his full attention to after retiring from military service in 1983. Knut M. Haugland was also instrumental in establishing The Institute of Pacific Archaeology and Cultural History, together with Thor Heyerdahl and archaeologist Arne Skjølsvold. He served as museum director until 1990 and as chairman of the board until 1991.

Knut M. Haugland began his military career fighting the German invasion of Norway in spring and summer of 1940. Most of the war he spent behind enemy lines as a secret agent, radio operator, in Norway, working for the SOE in England. He experienced several very dangerous episodes during the war and participated in the Vemork Heavy Water raid. Knut M. Haugland was a highly decorated war hero, who saw his museum work as his contribution to peace and understanding between former enemies.

Yours sincerely



Liv Heyerdahl